

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: MOSCOW

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Rec'd: MARCH 16, 1959
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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1836, MARCH 16, 6 P.M.

7/29/60
no reply necessary,
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Vigderman/GER

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1836; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 357,
PARIS 330, BONN 247, BERLIN 143.

NAN

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WHILE I HAVE NOT SEEN OUR POSITION PAPER ON SUBJECT I
GATHER DEPARTMENT CONTEMPLATES AND WEST GERMANS FAVOR
RAISING QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH SETTLE-
MENT OF GERMAN QUESTION. ASSUME WE ARE RAISING THIS ISSUE
LARGELY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE
CERTAIN RISKS IN SUCH ACTION. EVEN IF WE DO NOT PUT FORWARD
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL SOVIETS MIGHT DO SO AND ANY ARRANGEMENT
FOR ENFORCEMENT WOULD INVOLVE AT LEAST TACIT RECOGNITION OF
GDR. ANY AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE
TO BE COUCHED IN FAIRLY BROAD LANGUAGE WHICH COULD BE USED
BY SOVIETS AND/OR EAST GERMANS FOR INTERVENTION IN BERLIN
AND POSSIBLY WEST GERMANY. IF WE INTEND MAKING ANY
AGREEMENTS INVOLVING EVEN DE FACTO RECOGNITION EXISTENCE
GDR SUGGEST WE SHOULD GET HIGHER PRICE THAN VAGUE AND
PROBABLY UNENFORCEABLE AGREEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. FROM
PROPAGANDA VIEWPOINT SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY COUNTER BY
POINTING TO SUPPRESSION COMMUNIST PART AND CHARGES OF
MILITARISM AND FASCISM IN WEST GERMANY AND OUR INITIATIVE
MIGHT ASSIST SOVIET EFFORTS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS
DESIGNED TO CURB SUCH ALLEGED TENDENCIES THERE. ANY
AGREEMENT WHICH GAVE SOVIETS BASIS FOR INTERVENTION IN
GERMAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WOULD BE MOST DANGEROUS AND I FIND
PARTICULARLY DISTURBING INDICATION BRITISH WILLINGNESS
CONSIDER GIVING UNDERTAKING ABOUT "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND
PROPAGANDA" IN BERLIN (PARIS TEL TO DEPT 3285). DEPARTMENT
MAY HAVE PLAN FOR AVOIDING PITFALLS INDICATED ABOVE BUT
BELIEVE THEY SHOULD CAREFULLY BE CONSIDERED.

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